The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/72/111 and A/72/111/Add.1; A/68/37)

1. **Mr. Tanoh-Boutchoue** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that terrorism was a matter of grave concern to the international community. Fighting it had become more difficult as terrorist groups now had international connections and were using modern technological, logistical and military means to carry out their activities. Indeed, his country, like many others, had experienced a deadly terrorist attack that had caused many fatalities. The acts of Boko Haram, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and other groups in neighbouring countries had caused Côte d'Ivoire to increase preventive measures. It had ratified 16 international counter-terrorism instruments and had also enacted legislation aimed at combating the scourge of terrorism. A 2009 presidential order on combating terrorism financing in the members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union had been complemented by a 2015 law classifying certain acts as acts of terrorism and establishing severe penalties for such acts, while at the same time taking account of the need to ensure full respect for human rights and civil liberties. The law targeted anyone who — with the intention of provoking terror; intimidating the population; promoting a political, religious or ideological cause; or constraining the Government, an organization or an institution to adopt or reject a position or to act according to certain principles — committed or threatened to commit an act that took the life of or gravely injured another person. The same applied to anyone who recruited one or more persons to become part of an organized criminal group with a view to participating in the commission of terrorist acts. Lastly, anyone affiliated with an association or who participated in a group that planned or committed terrorist acts fell under the scope of the law. Africa did not have the means to meet the terrorist threat, and for that reason Côte d'Ivoire hoped that greater efforts would be made on behalf of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, whose action was crucial to assuring security in that part of Africa and eradicating international terrorism. His delegation therefore called for the adoption of an international counter-terrorism convention under the auspices of the United Nations.

2. **Ms. Onanga** (Gabon) said that no cause, ideology or religion could justify the atrocities committed recently in Mali, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, London, Nigeria, Spain and Las Vegas. Her Government condemned such heinous acts, whose perpetrators showed no respect for human life and values, and expressed its condolences to the Governments and peoples affected by them.

3. Gabon had ratified almost all the United Nations instruments that formed the legal framework for international efforts to combat terrorism. While all countries were subject to the scourge of terrorism, they did not all have equal capacity to combat the sophisticated methods employed by terrorists. Strengthened cooperation was therefore needed to maximize the effectiveness of global counter-terrorism efforts, particularly with regard to the exchange of information and the monitoring of sources of terrorist financing. Her delegation called for capacity-building assistance for developing countries that took account of their specific needs and the threats they faced, and it reiterated its call for the Committee to reach consensus on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The slowness of the negotiations to date stood in regrettable contrast to the upsurge in terrorist acts.

4. **Mr. Llorentty Solíz** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his Government categorically condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it was an unjustifiable crime and constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and such groups must not serve as justification for any measures to prevent and combat terrorism. Regime change, interventionism and interference in the internal affairs of other States constituted one of the fundamental reasons that had led to leadership vacuums, a weakening of order and security forces and a lack of border controls, thereby allowing terrorist and extremist groups to impose their violent ideology, perpetrate destabilizing acts and commit violations of human rights that might constitute crimes against humanity.

5. It was important to promote a more active role by States in order to combat terrorism more effectively through internal machinery, external cooperation and joint technical mechanisms, with due respect for international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law. However, such cooperation and technical assistance must be a function of States' requests, must not be understood as a further element of international control and must be directed primarily at national capacity-building. In that connection, his Government

welcomed the decision to establish the Office of Counter-Terrorism pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/291. It also reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and reiterated its determination to apply the principles contained in the Strategy and its four pillars and to promote all measures contained therein, the most effective way of eradicating the terrorist threat while at the same time ensuring full respect for the rule of law and human rights.

6. **Mr. Méndez Graterol** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said his Government condemned terrorist acts committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes and expressed its solidarity with the victims. It reaffirmed that terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. His Government was concerned about the negative impact of counter-terrorism efforts in connection with the application of immigration measures taken in some countries and directed against nationals of Middle Eastern and African States. It reiterated its rejection of the elaboration of unilateral lists of countries that sponsored terrorism; that practice was incompatible with international law and must stop.

7. Preventing, combating and eradicating terrorism required determined international cooperation and the adoption of effective measures based on respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant international treaties. The resurgence and spread of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the Middle East and northern Africa was the result of the interventionism and armed aggression committed against Iraq and Libya in 2003 and 2011 in the framework of the so-called "policy of regime change", which had led to the dismantling of their political and institutional structures, with devastating consequences for peace, human rights and the development of those countries. The fight against terrorism called for credible efforts on the part of the international community to address conditions which bred terrorism, such as foreign occupation, poverty, oppression and human rights violations. It also required strict observance of the prohibition on the supply of weapons, financial support and the sale of oil to terrorist groups.

8. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had signed and ratified the main international counter-terrorism conventions, at both the global and the regional levels, and complied strictly with the obligations assumed therein. His Government had submitted reports on the required implementation follow-up, had reformed its legislation in order to monitor terrorism financing, chemical weapons and nuclear materials, and had strengthened its institutional capacity by modernizing its border controls and customs systems and the security of travel documents so as to prevent the movement of terrorists and trafficking in illicit substances.

9. His delegation urged all members of the international community to comply with their international obligations to ensure effective cooperation in the fight against terrorism in order to guarantee the administration of justice and the sentencing of persons convicted of terrorist acts. In that regard, his Government was still awaiting the extradition of the international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who was responsible for blowing up a Cubana de Aviación airliner on 6 October 1976, killing 74 innocent civilians.

10. His Government supported the efforts of the working group mandated to draft an international counter-terrorism convention. It was important to elaborate definitions of terms such as terrorism and State terrorism that enjoyed international agreement and did not give rise to double standards or ambiguous interpretations.

11. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations. All terrorist acts were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, constituted serious crimes and must be condemned and prosecuted. The shielding and glorification of terrorists could not be tolerated. The sensitive geographic location of Azerbaijan and the armed conflicts in its region had made the country vulnerable to transboundary threats such as terrorism and related criminal activities. Since the end of the 1980s, Azerbaijan had repeatedly been the target of terrorist attacks that had claimed the lives of thousands of people.

12. His Government had taken comprehensive measures to strengthen the country's security and defence capabilities, border control and management, and export control systems. Azerbaijan was a party to all international and regional instruments on combating terrorism and was an active contributor to global counter-terrorism efforts. It supported international cooperation to combat terrorism as well as individual and collective efforts, including those aimed at degrading and ultimately defeating terrorist organizations and their affiliates and networks.

13. Notwithstanding the importance of addressing all conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism

Strategy, it was critical to intensify conflict-resolution efforts around the world. Areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, were often exploited by terrorists, separatists and other organized criminal groups. The accumulation of armaments and munitions in areas beyond the reach of legitimate Governments and international control and the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction posed a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. Scrupulous compliance by all States with their international obligations, including the relevant Security Council resolutions, was key to ensuring that their territories were not used for terrorist, separatist and related activities, and in particular for providing financing for such activities or other forms of direct or indirect support.

14. The new Office of Counter-Terrorism must improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization to broaden efforts to promote conflict prevention, build sustainable peace and address the root causes that made terrorist recruitment possible.

15. Terrorist acts that occurred in the context of armed conflict might amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, entailing individual criminal responsibility at the national and international levels. In that regard, international cooperation on criminal matters, with mutual legal assistance as an important component, was the key to combating impunity for acts of terrorism and related criminal activities. Particular attention should be given to addressing legal consequences arising from serious breaches of obligations under peremptory norms of general international law, including the duty of States to cooperate in order to bring such breaches to an end by lawful means. Azerbaijan reiterated its determination to contribute actively to the process of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would provide a universal definition of the crime of terrorism and complement the existing legal framework of international counter-terrorism instruments.

16. His Government commended the counter-terrorism efforts of regional organizations, including those of which Azerbaijan was a member, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia.

17. The war on terrorism must not be used to target any religion or culture. United Nations support for initiatives on intercultural and interfaith dialogue and a culture of peace and multiculturalism was essential for promoting tolerance, building inclusive and resilient societies and overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions.

18. **Mr. Boukadoum** (Algeria) said that his Government reiterated its strong condemnation of terrorist acts in all their forms and manifestations, regardless of their motivations, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. It was determined to continue its struggle against terrorism and violent extremism as well as against all misconceptions and the tendentious association of terrorism with any religion, civilization or geographical area. The fight against terrorism must include a fight against xenophobia and Islamophobia, which were emerging as new faces of violent extremism. His delegation reiterated its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review process and stressed the importance of strengthening efforts within the Strategy by enhancing cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels, strengthening capabilities and exchanging best practices and expertise on combating terrorism.

19. For its part, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre had proved to be a useful institution which added value to United Nations efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force also played an important role by ensuring overall coordination and coherence and assisting Member States in terms of technical support, policy-making and capacity-building.

20. Efforts to combat terrorism could be enhanced by advancing the work on finalizing a comprehensive convention on the subject. It was important to agree on a definition of terrorism that was in line with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and as endorsed by General Assembly resolution 46/51 and other related documents. His delegation also supported the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a common position on eliminating terrorism.

21. The prevention of terrorism required continued vigilance, mobilization and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels. Punitive measures alone were not sufficient; a coherent political strategy was also needed. Algeria had made considerable progress in eliminating terrorism and violent extremism, thereby consolidating its reconciliation policy. His country's efforts to combat terrorism and improve regional and international awareness and

cooperation predated the manifestation of major acts of international terrorism. Algeria had pioneered many counter-terrorism initiatives and instruments that continued to play an important role in the African region.

22. The African Union, for its part, had demonstrated its commitment to the fight against terrorism through its decision condemning the payment of ransom to terrorist groups, the appointment of a Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and the establishment of a subcommittee on terrorism within its Peace and Security Council. The memorandum which Algeria had submitted at the African Union Summit in July 2017 in Addis Ababa, and which had been unanimously adopted by the 55 Member States, contained seven priority segments for action in fighting terrorism and would also serve as a platform for cooperation between Africa and the international community.

23. Algeria continued its efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation to strengthen the capacities of the countries of the Sahel region. It had engaged in a concerted approach through many cooperation mechanisms, including the Sahel Region Capacity-Building Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, co-chaired with Canada, the Joint Military Staff Committee of the Sahel Region and the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit, and it would co-chair, also with Canada, the new working group on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in West Africa. The military deployments on the country's borders helped to ensure the national security not only of Algeria but also of its neighbours. His Government also continued to contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the Maghreb, northern Mali and the Sahel, while fully respecting the principles of State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

24. Algeria would continue to contribute to efforts to put an end to terrorism and violent extremism, including through the work of the Sixth Committee.

25. **Mr. Moussa** (Djibouti) said that the past two decades had witnessed a growing entanglement of traditional and non-traditional factors of insecurity. Eastern Africa had been one of the first regions to be victim of the ideological assaults and attacks perpetrated by extremist terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and Al-Shabaab. The new dangers called for responses that took account of the numerous reasons behind the propagation of extremist ideologies and narratives. Any response must be based on a balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, bearing in mind that violent extremism was not associated with any religion, race, culture or society.

26. Over the years, the member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development had become more resilient in the face of terrorism, and in February 2017 they had adopted a plan of action to combat it. It was in that context that, since March, Djibouti had hosted the Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, the first of its nature in Africa. It was essential for bilateral partners and United Nations bodies to contribute financially so as to ensure the continuation of the centre's activities.

27. The purpose of the centre was in line with the action taken by Djibouti over the past ten years. As a bridgehead for international efforts to support the reconstruction of Somalia and combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden, Djibouti had become aware early on of the role of groups propagating extremist ideologies. In 2014, at the initiative of President Ismail Omar Guelleh, it had adopted a proactive approach, organizing meetings with the main religious leaders of the region to identify methodological tools for combating the ideological recruitment of which the most vulnerable members of society were at risk. At the national level, its strategy was based on theological dialogue, the voluntary involvement of young people in public works and respect for and promotion of individual and collective freedoms.

28. Given its belief in a culture of peace, and to ensure the triumph of the values and ideals of mutual comprehension, in July 2017 Djibouti had formally joined the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL.

29. **Mr. Luna** (Brazil) said that terrorism must be condemned in all its forms and manifestations. The repudiation of terrorism was enshrined in the Brazilian Constitution as a guiding principle of its foreign policy. Brazil was signatory to 14 international legal instruments against terrorism negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations and to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. It had also adopted domestic legislation to facilitate the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and establish a definition of terrorism.

30. While States were united in their desire to eliminate international terrorism, the questionable legality of some counter-terrorism measures made them divisive. Counter-terrorism efforts would undermine the values they sought to uphold and foster extremism conducive to terrorism if they did not respect the Charter of the United Nations and

international law, in particular international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. In that connection, efforts to combat the use of new communications technologies by terrorist organizations must not infringe on the rights to freedom of expression and privacy. The surveillance or interception of communications by States, including extraterritorially, could have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

31. Furthermore, the Security Council must conduct proper follow-up to the increasing number of letters it was receiving from States seeking to justify the use of military force in the context of counter-terrorism, in most cases after the fact, and determine whether the States in question were fulfilling their obligations under the Charter. To increase transparency, Brazil suggested the creation of a dedicated session in the Council's website listing all such communications.

32. In addition to those issues, there were also concerns stemming from attempts to reinterpret the law regarding the content and scope of self-defence, especially its applicability in relation to non-State actors. Critical legal issues involving the use of force must be discussed. Some interpretations regarding the scope and content of self-defence arising in counter-terrorism scenarios might not be adequate or advisable, as they might set dangerous precedents. Silence regarding such interpretations, such as the so-called "unwilling and unable" doctrine, should not be understood as acquiescence or as proof of *opinio juris*. As the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee was an appropriate venue for such discussions, which should take into due account the views of the International Court of Justice on the matter.

33. The current absence of a universally agreed definition of international terrorism was detrimental to the common goal of eliminating it. His delegation underscored the importance of overcoming the stalemate in negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as a matter of urgency and of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Those initiatives would help to improve the coordination of joint efforts and help to ensure that all measures respected due process and human rights.

34. It was important to have a proper understanding of the linkages between terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism. Although those three phenomena could be linked in specific circumstances, as in ISIL recruitment efforts, they were not automatically related. Racism, xenophobia and homophobia, for example, could lead to forms of violent extremism that had nothing to do with terrorism. The conflation of the concepts of violent extremism and terrorism could lead to the justification of an overly broad application of counter-terrorism measures, including against forms of conduct that should not qualify as terrorist acts.

35. Nor did terrorism have universal or intrinsic linkages with transnational organized crime. While terrorism represented a threat to international peace and security, transnational organized crime was a matter of public security.

36. Brazil had been attentive to prevention not only domestically, but also at the multilateral and regional levels. The threat of terrorism could only be countered through approaches that addressed its underlying causes, in particular protracted conflicts and social, political, economic and cultural exclusion. Since terrorist groups attracted recruits by providing a false sense of purpose, belonging and identity, addressing legitimate grievances and promoting inclusion should be key elements of counter-terrorism efforts.

37. It was crucial to dispel the stereotypes that associated terrorism with specific cultures, religions or ethnicities and to eliminate discriminatory laws, prejudice and xenophobia. Responses to the refugee crisis should reduce, rather than increase, the risks associated with violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

38. The centrality of the United Nations in counter-terrorism efforts must be preserved. Brazil welcomed the recent establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism. The reform of the counter-terrorism architecture would provide leadership and create conditions for enhanced coordination within the system, and the Organization would be better equipped to implement all four pillars of its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner.

39. His delegation joined previous speakers in encouraging further reflection on how the current agenda item could be more efficiently used so as to avoid overlap and duplication with the policy discussions held biennially at plenary level at the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reviews. One alternative would be to focus the debates in the Sixth Committee on the outstanding legal questions, especially the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

40. **Mr. Hammad** (Bahrain) said that his country had made enormous efforts to combat international terrorism. It was committed to combating terrorism in

cooperation with other countries in its region and elsewhere. In that regard, it had acceded to a number of international and regional counter-terrorism instruments. It had listed several groups, including ISIL, Al-Qaida and Hizbullah, as terrorist organizations, and supported the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL.

41. Bahrain congratulated Iraq on its extraordinary success in liberating parts of the country from ISIL, with the support of the international coalition, in which Bahrain participated actively.

42. Stability and security in the Middle East called for cooperation based on the principles of non-interference in domestic affairs, good-neighbourly relations and respect for international instruments; only in that way could the threat of terrorism be overcome. Bahrain rejected those who supported and financed terrorism, whether States, entities or individuals. The use of terrorism by some States to undermine others was a destabilizing factor in the region.

43. Bahrain had worked to establish regional partnerships in respect of maritime security. A summit meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council had been held in May in Saudi Arabia with the participation of the United States of America, at which a memorandum of understanding had been signed to curb sources of finance. There was also a strategic plan against extremist thinking.

44. Bahrain had been a member of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative since 2004, and it was committed to implementing the relevant counter-terrorism resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), and to submitting the regular reports which those resolutions required.

45. His Government was working to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and FATF recommendations, and was closely monitoring its borders and other control points and implementing laws and regulations in that respect. At the regional level, Bahrain and fraternal countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council had adopted a security strategy to fight extremism and terrorism; they had signed the Muscat Declaration on Terrorism in 2002 and set up a special counter-terrorism committee in 2006.

46. At the national level, Bahrain had adopted several acts and regulations on countering terrorism, such as Act No. 58 (2006) on the protection of society from terrorist acts and the amendments thereto, which included a section on terrorist crimes and established the post of special prosecutor for terrorist matters, and Decree No. 4 (2001) on the prohibition of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In 2001, a committee had been established to elaborate policies on prohibiting and combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In 2014 Bahrain had hosted an international conference on countering the financing of terrorism. In implementation of the outcome of that conference, a workshop had been held in 2015 on the protection of civil society organizations from the threat of terrorism and possible means of addressing the phenomenon without undermining the activities of those bodies.

47. Bahrain reiterated its rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

48. **Mr. Ayebare** (Uganda) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations and by whomsoever committed.

49. Terrorism must not be attributed to any culture or religion. The international community must address its root causes, including poverty, and it was also important to have a definition of terrorism that differentiated it from legitimate struggles.

50. His delegation supported efforts to improve the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to achieve a consensus regarding a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It endorsed the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

51. Over the years, Uganda had succeeded in driving terrorist groups out of its territory, but they continued to operate from neighbouring countries. All States must cooperate to eradicate those groups. Under the auspices of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Uganda had played a central role in fighting Al-Shabaab. Efforts should be stepped up to assist Somalia in developing institutions capable of dealing with terrorist organizations that regarded that country as a safe haven for their activities. Ultimately, recourse to the judicial process was imperative in combating terrorism. In the meantime, Uganda would pursue the military option.

52. Uganda reiterated its concern that the toxic waste dump off the coast of Somalia might constitute an arsenal for terrorists in their quest for weapons of mass destruction. The dumping must stop, and those responsible must ensure that it was cleaned up.

53. **Mr. Pandyal** (Nepal) said that, as noted by the Prime Minister of Nepal during his address to the

General Assembly in September, violent extremism had undermined peace and security in different parts of the world, with more youths being radicalized, with more lives being devastated, and societies turning intolerant. Nepal reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it might occur. Terrorism was a threat to human rights, democracy and development. Efforts to combat terrorism had been too little and often too late, hence the importance of the role of the United Nations. In that context, his delegation welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

54. The universal instruments highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/111 and A/72/111/Add.1) constituted legally binding obligations to prosecute, suppress and cooperate in response to terrorist acts. Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) also created reporting and implementation obligations for Member States. It was time to enforce those instruments and resolutions and to work to address both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism.

55. Nepal was a party to a number of international counter-terrorism instruments and to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and its additional protocol. It called on the international community to seek common ground in order to elaborate a more comprehensive international legal instrument to address the many new challenges in the field. Due consideration should also be given to the proposal to convene a high-level international counter-terrorism conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

56. Nepal supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and had been implementing it. The promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance, respect for diversity and the dignity of humankind, which was deeply ingrained in its societal values, had been incorporated into school curricula and youth programmes. Nepal had continuously invested in the capacity-building of its law-enforcement agencies. The capacity-building of Member States lacking in resources, technology and information must receive support. Although it was necessary to be firm in combating terrorism, measures to ensure respect for human rights must be upheld at all times.

57. It was important to build on the achievements made in controlling the financing of terrorism, including through legal assistance and information sharing.

58. **Mr. George** (Sierra Leone) said that the terrorist threat must never be perceived as a problem of only one country or region. Sierra Leone had consistently condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and it reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of indiscriminate terrorist attacks around the world.

59. His Government reaffirmed the importance of working closely to improve the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to step up efforts aimed at addressing the problem through the effective implementation of regional and national counter-terrorism and de-radicalization programmes. It was also striving to strengthen collaboration with religious leaders who had embarked on nationwide public awareness campaigns to delink religion from terrorism and stress the importance of maintaining peace.

60. Sierra Leone underscored the need to achieve consensus on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and it reaffirmed its support for the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations in further articulating an international response to terrorism. It highlighted the importance of being proactive in preventing violent extremism by engaging all members of society, including non-State actors, youth and disadvantaged persons, through timely intelligence-sharing and condemnation of terrorism.

61. **Ms. Jeon** Yu Jin (Republic of Korea) said that her country firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. No cause could justify those acts of violence.

62. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had created a sound basis for serving as a strategic leader on counter-terrorism issues. Her delegation also welcomed the creation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and looked forward to working with it in implementing the four pillars of the Strategy.

63. Given the lack of adequate enforcement mechanisms in the international community, it was vital that each country fully implement its obligations under the relevant conventions and United Nations resolutions at the national level.

64. The Republic of Korea was a party to all the major universal conventions against terrorism. In 2016, her Government had enacted an anti-terrorism law and established a national counter-terrorism centre within the Prime Minister's office. It had also been developing a national action plan to prevent violent extremism.

with the aim of submitting the plan to the United Nations by the end of 2017.

65. The Republic of Korea had also participated in regional efforts to build capacity within Asia for preventing violent extremism through outreach programmes in countries vulnerable to that phenomenon. It had carried out projects in developing countries in education and vocational training to support their efforts to tackle the root cause of violent extremism. The Financial Action Task Force's Training and Research Institute established in 2016 in Busan had also provided education programmes and carried out research on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

66. The Republic of Korea was a sponsor of the "Tech Against Terrorism" project, an initiative pursuant to Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) to help start-ups build practical tools and develop their responses for combating terrorism and extremism on their platforms while reinforcing the importance of human rights and protecting fundamental freedoms.

67. Terrorism fed on discrimination, exclusion and inequality. A comprehensive and holistic approach was therefore crucial to dealing with the evolving scope and nature of terrorist threats and to reintegrating extremists into society. In that regard, her Government supported the efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which aimed at addressing the key components of terrorism, notably terrorists, weapons, funding and networks.

68. Her Government stressed the importance of implementing obligations under international law and respecting the fundamental values of the international community. The persistence and severity of terrorist attacks, flagrantly violating human rights and destroying society, were a reminder that countering terrorism was an indispensable part of promoting human rights and the rule of law. It was time to redouble efforts to that end by developing a normative and legal framework that encompassed shared values.

69. Negotiations for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism had remained at an impasse. The scale and dimension of current threats called for flexibility in order to bring the negotiations to a close.

70. *Mr. Ivchare (Uganda), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

71. **Mr. Morejon Pazmiño** (Ecuador) said that terrorism was a serious threat to the international community. Ecuador unequivocally condemned all terrorist acts committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, regardless of the entity that perpetrated them, including State terrorism, whether committed directly or indirectly.

72. Joint, concerted measures were needed to counteract terrorism; any such action must strictly comply with public international law and international human rights law and must respect State sovereignty. Ecuador rejected the use or threat of force against any State on the pretext of combating terrorism, as well as the unilateral preparation of lists of certain States. All measures adopted outside the framework of the Charter of the United Nations were illegal and illegitimate.

73. Prevention of terrorism was equally important, and it was therefore essential to identify factors that might promote acts of terrorism, including its financing, political, ethnic, religious and racial intolerance, and social and economic inequality between nations.

74. Ecuador supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, and it welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

75. His delegation would continue to work towards the finalization of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. To reach a consensus, it was important to consider all points of view and incorporate the legitimate concerns of all Member States. His delegation was in favour of an open consultation process to achieve progress in that regard.

76. **Mr. Bukoree** (Mauritius) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was more important than ever for States and international organizations to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism in accordance with their obligations under international law. Coordination among States should be strengthened and cooperation intensified for the exchange of timely and accurate information aimed at preventing and combating terrorism.

77. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which would provide leadership, coordination and coherence, strengthen the Organization's counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States and improve the visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for its counter-terrorism efforts.

78. In 2016, substantive legislative amendments had been made in Mauritius to the Prevention of Terrorism Act of 2002 in order to strengthen the legal framework for combating terrorism. In line with the Government Programme 2015-2019, the Counter-Terrorism Unit now had the legal status needed to discharge its

functions more effectively and efficiently. The amendments also addressed issues such as terrorist training, whether inland or overseas, recruitment by terrorist groups and terrorist hoaxes, together with special powers of inquiry, and the use of technologies for surveillance and intelligence-gathering.

79. His Government was working on its national counter-terrorism strategy, with an emphasis on community bonding, law enforcement, intelligence-gathering and response and recovery, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Intercultural dialogue in the country's multi-ethnic and multi-faith society helped in overcoming barriers and promoting a culture of peace, justice, human development, tolerance and respect for different religions and cultures. Those were essential elements in tackling the root causes of terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, which very often arose in situations of extreme poverty, inequality, marginalization and discrimination.

80. Mauritius was a party to several international treaties containing the obligation to apprehend, prosecute or extradite perpetrators of terrorist acts. Its Constitution safeguarded the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, including freedom of conscience.

81. **Ms. Sankareh-Farage** (Gambia) said that her country was at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and all its forms and manifestations. Committed to that endeavour, it had ratified all international treaties against terrorism and terrorist acts. It had enacted a number of laws, including the Anti-Money-Laundering Act and the Human Trafficking in Persons Act, to advance its efforts to combat all forms of terrorism and related activities. Her Government was willing to share intelligence on terrorism and related activities with the international community and encouraged all Member States to do likewise.

82. Her delegation called on Member States to reject Islamophobia: Islam and Muslims were not at war with the world, and the world must not be at war with Islam and Muslims. World leaders must denounce those who repeatedly claimed that there was a connection between Islam and terrorism. Member States must focus on ways of ending terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

83. **Mr. Elshenawy** (Egypt) said that the world was facing an unprecedented resurgence of terrorism, a challenge that called for unconventional global action. The international response must be non-selective and must tackle terrorism's root causes, without relying solely on military and security measures, and it must at the same time ensure strict compliance with obligations under human rights law and international law.

84. At the national level, Egypt had been addressing the residual elements of terrorism, covering all counter-terrorism aspects. All stakeholders of civil society participated in that endeavour. In that connection, Decree 355 (2017) had called for the establishment of a national council to counter terrorism and extremism, to be tasked with drafting a global national strategy to combat the phenomenon both at home and abroad, coordinating with religious institutions and State security agencies to elaborate ways of countering terrorist narratives, and making recommendations for relevant legal amendments.

85. Egypt had actively participated in the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and would do so during the sixth review in 2018. It had been one of the countries that had called for the setting up of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, and it looked forward to the Office working to coordinate the efforts of the various United Nations counter-terrorism bodies to avoid duplication, thereby boosting the effectiveness of such action. The Office should also give greater assistance to States in complying with their obligations, building their counter-terrorism capacities, based on the principle of national ownership, and implementing their national counter-terrorism strategies and the four pillars in a balanced fashion. Egypt also paid tribute to the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and it stood ready to contribute to any such counter-terrorism efforts, given its vast experience in that area.

86. In the context of his country's membership of the Security Council, and at its initiative, the Security Council had adopted the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives, the first document of its kind to address terrorist narratives and ideologies and messages. The Security Council had then adopted resolution 2354 (2017) to implement the Framework. It had also adopted resolution 2370 (2017) to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons. Those three documents had been added to the counter-terrorism infrastructure.

87. As Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Egypt had convened a series of meetings and briefings on various aspects of counter-terrorism, such as prevention of the financing of terrorism, prevention of the use of the Internet and the social media to promote terrorism, prevention of the supply of weapons and the use of safe havens for terrorists, the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and mutual legal assistance.

Participation in those meetings should be broadened to include the wider membership of the United Nations and relevant organizations, and not just members of the Security Council.

88. His Government stressed the need to ensure that terrorist ideologies were not used to recruit new combatants, especially among young people, and it highlighted the important role of religious institutions in countering terrorist narratives.

89. His delegation underscored the importance of implementing all General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on terrorism. In particular, it was unacceptable to give terrorists safe havens and to allow them to transit countries to travel to combat zones. Anyone who assisted terrorists or aided and abetted their acts in any way, as well as those who offered pretexts to justify assistance to terrorists, must be brought to justice.

90. It was to be hoped that progress would be made at the current session on the finalization of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, including a clear definition of terrorism. The convening of an international counter-terrorism conference was all the more urgent, given the need to harmonize the plethora of counter-terrorism efforts and avoid duplication.

91. The item "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" must remain an annual item on the General Assembly's agenda. It was not logical — given that counter-terrorism was one of the priorities of the United Nations — to find proposals that the item should be considered only every two years.

92. **Mr. Kim** In Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism would help implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and improve international cooperation on combating the phenomenon.

93. The root cause of the terrorism crisis continued to be the aggression, intervention and murderous atrocities being committed by one particular country against sovereign States under the pretext of a "war on terror", thereby gravely undermining world peace and security. As a result of the terrorist wars waged by the United States, the total number of refugees worldwide had increased to 65 million. In essence, its "war on terror" amounted to State terrorism — a new form of a war of aggression aimed at regime change in countries that did not support the United States.

94. As recently as May 2017, the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had arrested a group of terrorists who had infiltrated the country on the orders of the United States Central Intelligence Agency and the National Intelligence Service of South Korea to carry out a State-sponsored terrorist attack against the nation's supreme headquarters using biological and chemical substances.

95. The international community must take care not to fall victim to the "war on terrorism" waged by the United States, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

96. Consistent with its opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had acceded to a number of international counter-terrorism instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Its Government would continue to work to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the world.

97. **Mr. Kpatamango** (Central African Republic) said that his country had not been spared the scourge of terrorism and its corollaries, violent extremism and transnational crime. On 24 March 2013, the so-called "Seleka" coalition, made up primarily of mercenaries and foreign fighters, had seized power in Bangui. In January 2014, the leader of that coalition had been forced to resign, following which Faustin Archange Touadera had been elected President in free and democratic elections. However, the security situation had continued to be alarming, with armed groups repeatedly committing massacres, rape, crimes against humanity and other violations of international law and international human rights law. Those groups were exploiting the nation's natural resources to finance their goals. The war had resulted in thousands of dead, displaced persons and refugees.

98. In an effort to put an end to the conflict, his Government had signed numerous agreements with the armed groups, most recently the Saint Egidio agreement, signed in Rome on 19 June 2017, leading to the adoption of a road map on 17 July 2017 in Libreville. In a decree of 12 September 2017, a new Government had been formed that included all the protagonists of the crisis, under the mediation of the countries of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the African Union. A disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation plan had also been implemented.

99. To ensure border security, the Central African Republic had signed a cooperation agreement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan, which followed upon a similar agreement signed earlier with Chad and the Sudan.

100. His Government supported all the counter-terrorism efforts of the international community and firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

101. **Mr. Bazadough** (Jordan) said that terrorism and violent extremism posed a grave threat to peace and security. They endangered all members of the human race, irrespective of religion, gender or national origin. Terrorists were increasingly using the Internet to spread their obscurantist ideology and gain new recruits. The failure to end the political stalemate in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict had also helped to create an enabling environment for terrorists and extremists. Jordan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever it was committed and whatever their pretext. Terrorism could not be associated with any religion, denomination, civilization or race.

102. In order to combat terrorism and extremism, comprehensive plans should be formulated at the national and international levels to tackle the political, economic, social and educational dimensions of the problem. There was a need for States to exchange information and intelligence in order to bolster cooperation. It was also necessary to strengthen partnerships on border controls and between the private and public sectors.

103. Jordan had taken action in a range of areas, including security, awareness-raising and legislation. Terrorist acts had been criminalized, including recruitment, training, financing and money-laundering. His Government also worked to promote values of tolerance and reject hate speech, based on the Amman Message, the "Common Word between Us and You" initiative and the World Interfaith Harmony Week. Jordan had also focused on protecting young people from terrorist ideology. In so doing, it had acted in accordance with the Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security, which had been announced by the Crown Prince further to Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security, which was the first of its kind. In cooperation with Norway, Jordan had set up the Group of Friends on Preventing Violent Extremism, which included 40 States and sought to raise awareness of violent extremism and its root causes. The Group of Friends would work to institutionalize combating violent extremism in the context of the activities of the United Nations, and it would support the Office of Counter-Terrorism. It would act as a discussion portal on combating violent extremism between United Nations counter-terrorism entities, Governments, civil society and other stakeholders.

104. All efforts must be pooled at the international level to combat terrorism in a unified and systematic way and in order to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Jordan would support all efforts to establish a legal framework for international cooperation to combat terrorism, consistent with international law.

105. **Mr. Fialho Rocha** (Cabo Verde) said that his country strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There was no justification for terrorism, which was a global problem that called for a global response. The United Nations must continue to be at the centre of counter-terrorism efforts. Cabo Verde pledged its support to the Office of Counter-Terrorism in its work.

106. His Government stressed the importance of adherence to the international and regional instruments and to the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. Cabo Verde was a party to 15 counter-terrorism instruments and complied with its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

107. However, the ultimate proof of the international community's determination to combat terrorism would be the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on terrorism. The lack of progress on the drafting of such an instrument because of the inability of States to find common ground favoured terrorist groups and other criminal organizations. His delegation called on all States to resolve all outstanding issues, with a view to enhancing technology transfer, capacity-building, information- and intelligence-sharing, and exchange of experiences and best practices. Such measures were of great importance for small countries like Cabo Verde, which needed the capacity to fight terrorist-related activities, such as money-laundering, recruitment of nationals and other forms of international organized crime whose profits were used to finance terrorism.

108. Global initiatives should be complemented by regional and local measures to counter terrorism. Cabo Verde was located in a region affected by the presence of terrorist and other criminal groups, which posed a serious threat to peace and stability in the region as well as to economic activities, above all tourism. Cabo Verde was particularly concerned about the various

forms of organized crimes in West Africa, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime, and had taken advantage of the support provided by the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa.

109. At the national level, in addition to criminalizing terrorist activities, in 2013 Cabo Verde had enacted Law 27, which established preventive and repressive measures to counter terrorism and its financing, criminalized terrorist organizations, defined terrorist acts and created conditions for the freezing of assets of all entities and persons involved in the financing of terrorism.

110. Success in the fight against terrorism depended on the international community's ability to tackle its root causes, including poverty, social exclusion and misinformation. The fight against terrorism must also be carried out with due respect for the rule of law, human rights law, humanitarian law and the principle of human dignity.

111. **Mr. del Rosario Ceba** (Dominican Republic) said that his Government reiterated its total condemnation of all acts of terrorism, which were unjustifiable crimes, and reaffirmed its commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in strict compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law. Terrorism could only be effectively contained through greater international cooperation.

112. It was crucial to address the conditions that favoured the spread of terrorism, such as prolonged unresolved conflicts, discrimination of all kinds, the dehumanization of the victims, the lack of the rule of law, human rights violations and prolonged social, political, economic and cultural exclusion, but none of those conditions could justify acts of terrorism.

113. His delegation stressed the importance of promoting a culture of peace that rejected all forms of discrimination and encouraged respect for cultural, religious and political diversity, which was characteristic for Latin America and the Caribbean.

114. Respect for international law was a prerequisite for a successful fight against terrorism. Any measures adopted outside the international legal framework were not only illegal but also unjustifiable and unacceptable, betrayed the values that the international community was seeking to uphold and might fuel violent extremism, which could lead to terrorism. His delegation noted in that regard the reference in General Assembly resolution 70/148 to the need to safeguard the right to privacy, which was fundamental to protecting persons against abuse of power.

115. It was important to increase awareness of the need to protect the victims of terrorism, especially women and children.

116. His Government expressed serious concern about the growing threat of foreign terrorist fighters, which affected all Member States, whether countries of origin, of transit or of destination.

117. His delegation was concerned about the negative impact that the lack of a definition of terrorism might have on human rights and due process. The finalization of a legal definition was a pre-condition to strengthening the rule of law both nationally and internationally.

118. The convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations and the process leading to a comprehensive convention on international terrorism could not be postponed indefinitely. That unjustifiable legal lacuna must be overcome. Both initiatives would strengthen the rule of law in the fight against international terrorism by providing a clear legal framework and ensuring more coherent joint efforts.

119. The fight against international terrorism could only be conducted by strictly legitimate legal means that were in compliance with international human rights norms, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

120. **Ms. Sande** (Uruguay) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms, and it had ratified a number of counter-terrorism conventions. Cooperation between States, by means of bilateral and multilateral norms, was crucial to combating those who perpetrated terrorist acts against humanity.

121. Given the speed with which the Internet made it possible to commit terrorist acts and the lack of updated domestic and international legislation in that regard, the international community must act swiftly to promote agreements on criminal matters, extradition and domestic legislation to combat the preparation and commission of illicit acts.

122. For its part, Uruguay had introduced strict measures for the control of bank deposits to prevent and counteract the financing of terrorism and money laundering. A number of bills and administrative decrees were being prepared to launch a counter-terrorism action strategy.

123. **Ms. Gebremedhin** (Eritrea), reiterating her Government's unequivocal condemnation of violent

extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, said that any action taken to combat terrorism must be consistent with international law. Acts of terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

124. The crisis in the Red Sea Basin and the potential spread of terrorism and violent extremism to the rest of the region was a matter of serious concern. Eritrea, while stable, secure and harmonious, had long experience in fighting radicalization, extremism and terrorism, and it had committed itself at national, regional and international levels to the global effort to combat and eliminate terrorism. To cite one example, in 2014 an extensive national counter-terrorism course had been conducted by the Intergovernmental Support Services and the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization for more than 30 officers. That type of regional response had been created to fight transnational and organized crime and harmonize national activities.

125. Eritrea continued to strengthen its cultural and legal instruments to prevent and combat all types of extremism and terrorism. One achievement had been the recently published Criminal Codes. The Code of Criminal Procedure had been recently revised to include questions of jurisdiction and extradition, as well as stiffer punishment. Current work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) included issues relating to the legal framework and other counter-terrorism programmes. A UNODC working group was holding talks with all law enforcement agencies and other government officials, through which wide-ranging projects were being developed.

126. It was important to strengthen the capacity of Member States through the provision of operational and technical advice and support, training and other forms of capacity-building so as to address issues relating to terrorism and help them implement their international obligations.

127. Eritrea supported United Nations efforts to counter the threat of terrorism and called for a balanced implementation of the four strategic pillars. It had co-sponsored Security Council resolution 2178 (2016), which aimed to strengthen international cooperation on combating all forms of extremism and terrorism.

128. Eritrea was a country in which Christians and Muslims lived together in harmony. The Horn of Africa, where Eritrea was located, was very vulnerable to the threat of terrorist infiltration, hence the need to strengthen cooperation and enhance the capability of States and regional and international organizations to combat that threat. In that connection, the unjustified restrictions imposed on some States must be lifted, because they could undermine their ability to fight terrorism.

129. The root causes of terrorism and radicalization, such as poverty, social marginalization, lack of access to resources and a sense of injustice, must be addressed. The promotion of sustainable and inclusive development was crucial in that regard.

130. **Mr. Ahmat** (Chad) said that his Government was determined to combat terrorism in all its forms, wherever it might occur. For that reason, it welcomed the establishment of an Office of Counter-Terrorism to help address the phenomenon.

131. Notwithstanding the size of the country, Chad was making efforts to ensure security within its borders. Together with its neighbours, it operated joint patrols to deter criminal activities. Although Chad had not experienced cases of violent extremism, his Government was involving all segments of the population, including religious and traditional leaders, through campaigns to raise awareness of terrorism.

132. Chad also focused on regional security. It had involved its army in several areas, notably in Mali, where it had a large contingent in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), in the Chad Lake region through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) and through its strong participation in the establishment of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. Those initiatives deserved to be encouraged by the international community, and the United Nations should accompany those efforts through multifaceted support.

133. Terrorism and extremist violence were brought about by poverty, and in particular by unemployment among young people, who were easy prey for terrorist groups. In response, the international community must support development programmes and projects initiated in the framework of Sahel development strategies. Moreover, the Security Council must find ways and means of putting an end to armed conflicts around the world.

134. The implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions to combat terrorism and extremism in all their forms would also help meet the challenge of foreign fighters. The fight against terrorism and trans-boundary crime called for closer cooperation between States and a better coordination of their

action, and technical and financial support for existing local structures.

135. It was to be hoped that the new Office of Counter-Terrorism, in cooperation with existing mechanisms, including the African Union and subregional entities, would succeed in defeating the scourge of terrorism.

136. **Mr. Konfourou** (Mali) said that his country, in the past a haven of peace and stability, had been the victim of acts of terrorism and extremist violence since January 2012. Terrorist groups had been regularly and indiscriminately attacking national defence and security forces, humanitarian and human rights organizations and fraternal international forces. Not even women, children, the elderly or persons with disabilities had been spared. The country's efforts to ensure stability and development had been undermined by the presence and criminal activities of terrorist organizations.

137. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and hoped that it would lead to a more coherent and efficient coordination of the fight against terrorism.

138. At the national level, Mali had elaborated a strategy to combat terrorism and violent extremism, together with a plan of action, in order to seek solutions to the root causes of terrorism, bearing in mind local realities. The goals were to support mechanisms for interfaith dialogue; train religious leaders; promote the traditional sources of stability in the community; introduce education on a culture of peace, human rights and democracy in school curricula; and finance projects for the empowerment of women and young people, in particular decent employment for youths.

139. A national legal framework in line with the country's international obligations was in place to promote the fight against terrorism; it included provisions for the punishment of perpetrators and the protection of victims. His Government had also adopted a national strategy to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, and a national unit for the processing of financial data had been operational since June 2008.

140. Mali underscored the importance of regional and international cooperation for combating organized transnational crime effectively. That awareness had led to the creation of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel by Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Niger and Mali to meet the security and development challenges facing those countries. Their Heads of State had decided that they would soon deploy a joint force to combat terrorism, transnational crime and trafficking in migrants. Mali called on friendly countries and international organizations to support the launch and operation of the joint force, which would help create conditions for development in those countries.

141. His delegation underlined the need for Member States to agree on a definition of terrorism without further delay in order to arrive at a shared understanding of the phenomenon, which would guarantee effective international cooperation for eradicating terrorism.

142. **Mr. Abdullahi** (Nigeria) said that terrorism continued to be a threat to all countries, big and small, and regardless of location; hence the need to develop an all-inclusive and collaborative approach to cope with that phenomenon.

143. Nigeria was continuing its efforts to confront the terrorist organization Boko Haram, which had been degraded and driven out of many areas in the north-eastern part of the country. His Government had introduced many measures to fight that threat on different fronts while ensuring compliance with human rights obligations. In August 2016, President Muhammadu Buhari had launched the revised National Counter-Terrorism Strategy and had urged Nigerians to participate in the psychological battle against terrorism, and he had also called for multisectoral collaboration and urged all government bodies to take part in the Strategy. The revised Strategy had succeeded in uniting all Nigerians in the fight against Boko Haram, regardless of their religious, tribal and political affiliations.

144. Nigeria had trained its military forces in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency on subjects ranging from urban patrol to unarmed combat and humanitarian law and had equipped them accordingly. The special forces of the Nigerian military had been training a mobile strike team of officers of the Nigerian security and civil defence corps and the Nigerian police.

145. Nigeria had also developed a huge capacity for the prompt and timely prosecution of Boko Haram suspects. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force had trained many government officials in the areas of human rights, rule of law and counter-terrorism.

146. A programme focused on de-radicalization, rehabilitation, reorientation and reintegration of repentant Boko Haram suspects. To assist the victims of Boko Haram, his Government had opened a victim

support fund and a presidential initiative for the northeast as well as a safe schools initiative, which had facilitated the provision of humanitarian relief and promoted socioeconomic stabilization and resettlement of persons displaced by the terror organization.

147. Nigeria had made significant progress in the fight against terrorism through international cooperation with a number of friendly countries, in particular Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin, which had come together within the framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to form the Multinational Joint Task Force. The Security Council had commended the important progress made by the Multinational Joint Task Force in combating Boko Haram.

148. His Government's commitment to fight international terrorism had also been demonstrated by its support for the convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations in order to formulate a joint response by the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

149. Member States must ensure full compliance with all United Nations resolutions and conventions to combat terrorism and its financing as well as with other instruments adopted at regional levels. That would constitute a valuable framework for cooperation among Member States.

150. His delegation reaffirmed his Government's commitment to work closely with all United Nations counter-terrorism entities, including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.